

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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Exemption(s): _____

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() Classify as () Extend as () Date

Date _____ Declassify on _____

Buenos Aires

September 4, 1979

Mr. Michael Posner
Executive Director
The Lawyers Committee for
International Human Rights
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Posner:

I too enjoyed our meeting last month. As you and many others suggested to me, both the situation here and my job have some very unique aspects for which standard Foreign Service training gives little preparation. And as you note in your letter I arrived here in the middle of a great deal of action. However, one bright side is that the advance team from the IAHRIC is on the ground and the other members will be arriving at the end of the week.

Your request for information about José Patricio and María Acuña came hard on the heels of a similar query from the Department of State. The Embassy spoke to the couple's son, Juan, in Santa Fe by phone on August 31. He repeated much of what your letter and its attachments contain. He did say that his parents have now been charged with violation of the Security Law (20840) dealing with subversive activities. Like his sister, Juan Acuña expressed some concern over his father's health.

As a result of your inquiry and that from the Department we are adding the names of José Patricio and María Acuña to the list we will be submitting to the Foreign Office Working Group on Human Rights.

I hesitate to advise you here about what you can do for the Acuñas. For example, my understanding is that while expressions of interest and concern from non-Argentine groups have occasionally been helpful, often such manifestations have had no demonstrable positive effect.

I hope the foregoing is useful. I am also enclosing a clipping you may find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Townsend B. Friedman
First Secretary

Enclosure: as stated

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CLEARANCE:

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